

Draft for Public Review

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/ REGULATORY IMPACT REVIEW/
INITIAL REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ANALYSIS
For Amending the Process by Which Annual Harvest Specifications Are Established for
Alaska Groundfish Fisheries
Implemented Under the Authority of the
Fishery Management Plans
for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area and
Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska

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Abstract: This draft Environmental Assessment/Regulatory Impact Review/Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (EA/RIR/IRFA) provides an analysis of alternative administrative procedures necessary to support the harvest specifications process for setting Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and other management measures for the Alaska groundfish fisheries in the exclusive economic zones of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area and the Gulf of Alaska. This Federal action would amend the process by which harvest specifications would be set in future years. Objectives for the revised process include management of the Alaska groundfish fisheries based on the best available scientific information and providing meaningful opportunity for useful public comment. The action is not expected to have significant environmental, social, or economic impacts. Annual or biennial harvest specifications would continue to be assessed under separate EA/RIR/IRFAs prepared each period prior to agency approval of final harvest specifications.

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